

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-4 (Canceled).

5 (Currently amended). ~~A tool for establishing a percutaneous path into bone~~ An assembly comprising

a cannula sized and configured to establish a path into bone, the cannula ~~having~~ including a side wall defining an internal bore aligned along an axis, ~~the cannula having and~~ a distal end region ~~and a distal opening in the distal end communicating with the bore to accommodate passage of a guide pin;~~

an opening in the side wall, the opening extending partially about the side wall and being elongated along the axis and having a distal terminus ~~being adapted to accommodate passage of an expandable structure from within the bore; and~~

a surface on the distal end region of the cannula spaced, at least in part, distally of the distal terminus of the opening to anchor the distal end region in cortical bone; and

an expandable structure for treating bone adapted for passage through the bore of the cannula and expansion through the opening from within the bore.

6 (Currently amended). An assembly ~~for treating bone~~ comprising:

a cannula sized and configured to establish a path into bone, the cannula ~~having~~ including a side wall defining an internal bore aligned along an axis, ~~the cannula having~~ a distal end region[:], and a distal opening in the distal end region communicating with the bore to accommodate passage of a guide pin;

an opening in the side wall extending partially about the side wall and being elongated along the axis ~~and adapted to accommodate passage of an expandable structure from within the bore; and~~

an expandable structure for treating bone adapted for passage through the bore of the cannula and expansion through the opening from within the bore.

7 (Currently amended). An assembly ~~for treating bone~~ comprising:

a cannula sized and configured to establish a path into bone, the cannula ~~having~~ including a side wall defining an internal bore aligned along an axis, ~~the cannula having and~~ a distal end;

an opening in the side wall, ~~the opening having a distal terminus, and~~ the opening extending partially about the side wall and being elongated along the axis and including a distal terminus ~~and adapted to accommodate passage of an expandable structure from within the bore;~~

the bore being solid between the distal terminus of the opening and the distal end of the cannula; and

an expandable structure for treating bone adapted for passage through the bore of the cannula and expansion through the opening from within the bore, ~~the expandable structure having radio opaque markers for locating the structure within the opening.~~

8 (Canceled)

9 (Currently amended). An assembly as set forth in claim 6[,]

wherein the expandable structure ~~has~~ includes radio opaque markers for locating the expandable structure within the opening.

10 (Currently amended). A method ~~for treating bone~~ comprising ~~the steps of~~:

providing a cannula as defined in claim 5 ~~or 6 or 7 or 8~~;

inserting the cannula into cancellous bone;

inserting an expandable structure through the bore of the cannula into registration with the opening; and

expanding the expandable structure from within the bore through the opening into contact with cancellous bone.

11 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 10, wherein ~~the step of~~ expanding the expandable structure compacts cancellous bone.

12 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim ~~11~~ 10, wherein ~~the compaction of cancellous bone~~ expanding the expandable structure forms a cavity in cancellous bone.

13 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 12 and further including ~~the step of~~ conveying a material into the cavity.

14 (Canceled)

15 (New). An assembly as set forth in claim 5

wherein the expandable structure includes radio opaque markers for locating the expandable structure within the opening.

16 (New). An assembly as set forth in claim 7

wherein the expandable structure includes radio opaque markers for locating the expandable structure within the opening.

17 (New). A method comprising:

providing a cannula as defined in claim 6;
inserting the cannula into cancellous bone;
inserting an expandable structure through the bore of the cannula into registration with the opening; and
expanding the expandable structure from within the bore through the opening into contact with cancellous bone.

18 (New). A method according to claim 17, wherein expanding the expandable structure compacts cancellous bone.

19 (New). A method according to claim 17, wherein expanding the expandable structure forms a cavity in cancellous bone.

20 (New). A method according to claim 19, and further including conveying a material into the cavity.

21 (New). A method comprising:
providing a cannula as defined in claim 7;
inserting the cannula into cancellous bone;
inserting an expandable structure through the bore of the cannula into registration with the opening; and
expanding the expandable structure from within the bore through the opening into contact with cancellous bone.

22 (New). A method according to claim 21, wherein expanding the expandable structure compacts cancellous bone.

23 (New). A method according to claim 21, wherein expanding the expandable structure forms a cavity in cancellous bone.

24 (New). A method according to claim 23, and further including conveying a material into the cavity.